

THE BURMA NEWS



JANUARY, 1933

FROM THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS IN BURMA AND ASSAM

MAP OF BURMA MISSION



THE BURMA NEWS

H. W. SMITH, *Editor.*

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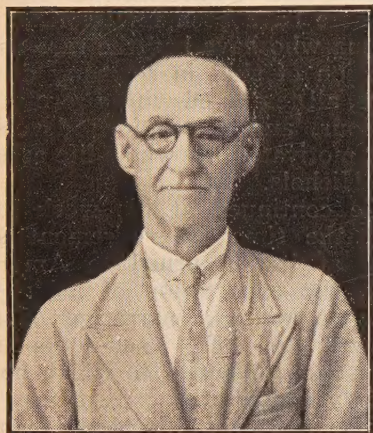
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Vol. XLVI

Rangoon, Burma, January, 1933.

No. 1

Rev. Charles Alvord Nichols, K.I.H., D.D.



This experience seems typical of Dr. Nichols. When in his prime he was always ready to take competent charge of any situation no matter what was involved, whether it was handling a boat, paddling a canoe, directing a choir, preaching a sermon, managing a school or a saw-mill, building extensive buildings or playing a pipe organ. Few men were more versatile than he and few excelled in more lines of art or business than he.

Charles Alvord Nichols was born in Connecticut, U. S. A., the 18th August, 1853. His ancestry ran back into some of the best of the early colonial stock, of mixed Scotch and English descent. He was graduated in arts from Colgate (then Hamilton) University and later from the Theological Seminary of the same institution. In August 1877, he was married to Miss Jennie Root, a relative of the late Ambassador to England, Elihu Root. In November 1879, the young couple arrived in Burma and were immediately designated to the care of the Sgaw Karen Mission at Bassein which even then was the largest collection of Karen Christians in the country. It was in this station that his whole missionary career was lived.

He at once took hold of language study and acquired a good command of Karen. He was constantly out in the villages and early began to build up a strong group of able

A number of years ago the writer was accompanying Dr. Nichols on a trip in the mission launch "Aurora" threading one of the innumerable creeks in Bassein district. As we went along, the serang began to show signs of uncertainty and finally mumbling a few words to Dr. Nichols, began to look over the side of the boat. Immediately my host sprang to his feet, moved forward and took the wheel. After a few turns he brought the nose of the launch toward a small creek and soon had the boat alongside the jungle bank. It seemed as if there was nothing anywhere in sight, but as he blew the whistle it was not a minute before the bank was lined with Karens from a hidden village hard-by.

village pastors and preachers. He soon began to know the people of the whole country and was a great force for law and order as well as for the moral and physical betterment of the Karens who came under his direct charge.

Following the Third Burmese War, Lower Burma went through a time of unsettled conditions with wide-spread dacoities. The then Deputy Commissioner of Bassein, Mr. St. Barbe was assassinated by a band of dacoits. The men under Dr. Nichols located the camp of this gang and Dr. Nichols himself took the lead of the party that set out to surprise the camp and capture the outlaws. This was easily accomplished and as a reward for this in addition to his many other acts of public benefaction he was later awarded the gold K.I.H. medal by the Government.

Dr. Nichols was a man of rare good judgment. In school matters he was well informed and his council was often sought by both the mission and the Education Department. For many years he was chairman of the Trustees of Judson College. In the district evangelistic work of his field, he was noted for his ability to instill a deep spiritual note in his work, to win the goodwill of the people and to direct a large number of fellow-workers. He had the aptness to direct without seeming to intrude himself upon those about him.

For many years the Karen Association in Bassein has owned and managed a saw-mill the proceeds of which have helped to maintain their school work. In this work Dr. Nichols showed his business ability. His artistic temperament showed itself in his love for music and his skill in playing the piano or the pipe organ and also in his ability to train the Karen choirs to sing difficult music with precision and expression. It was never his custom to put up

with slipshod work. When the time came to rebuild the school buildings for the big High School, he replaced the old wooden structures with a complete plant of fine new pucca buildings which are hardly to be matched anywhere in the country. Again his organizing ability was exhibited in that for all this extensive plant with its large pipe-organ, funds from America were not used but the money was raised by the Karens themselves helped out by Government grants for the school building.

There have been few workers in Burma who have had the rare combination of skill in so many directions, all tempered with a rare good humour, and a religious devotion that motivated his whole life as had Dr. Nichols.

He continued at his work long past the time for retirement and only at last returned to America with the expectation of using his time to write a narrative of the growth of the self-supporting Christian movement to which he so largely contributed.

The news of his death which followed two or three serious operations has only recently been received. It occurred on the 18th of December, 1932, at Danbury, Connecticut, where he had made his home.

Mrs. Jennie Nichols died at Maymyo, October 17, 1921. Of the six children born to them, only one survives, Mrs. Galloway of Glasgow, Scotland. In 1924 he married Miss Carrie Selleck of Danbury, Connecticut, who still survives him.

From his University he received the honorary degree of D.D. in recognition of his varied services. He was one of the "old guard." He will be missed by a wide circle of friends and associates but by none more than his faithful fellow-workers among the Karens of Bassein and Myaungmya districts.

H. I. Marshall.

Dr. Nichols has made his mark and passed on to his reward. How many of us there are who would be happy to feel that the net results of our lives for the good of mankind would measure up to or even approach the contribution he has made! He realized the greatness of his opportunity early in his work at Bassein. When Dr. Cushing was asked to take over the Baptist College principalship temporarily, Dr. Nichols, who was in America, was invited to take it up permanently. The Bassein Sgaw Karen station work was his choice.

He entered it with a zest which was not far from complete abandon. This was maintained throughout his extended period of service so that when an aged man he not infrequently made strenuous journeys that included a tramp of twenty-five miles in one day. His exploits which involved excessive toil were not induced by the excitement of some sporting expedition but they were in the pursuit of his definite mission ends. He was an intensely practical man though in social relations he was remarkably light hearted and full of fun. He could not long resist the temptation to cheer his companions with some humorous story. With what unrivalled tenacity he held himself and his associates to week-end evangelistic trips! He could forego pleasures and even ordinary comforts, but he could not give up the steamer excursions with bands of music and groups of earnest gospel preachers.

The Bassein Sgaw Karen Mission invested in business enterprises to support their educational interests especially, and his skill as an engineer as well as a business manager was called on to make them serve their purposes. For many years the public did not understand and so criticised him cruelly as though he was a plutocratic proprietor of these enterprises. In

reality, instead of getting any financial return personally from them he was regularly living on half of his missionary salary and contributing the other half to assist in carrying on the many-sided ministry of the mission station of which he was the superintendent. In later years there were various emergency needs for which the generous gifts of the Churches were not sufficient nor were his contributions from his own salary. On several such occasions small legacies came to his home from relatives and these were poured into the Station accounts to meet the needs. He identified his personal interests with the interests of the mission schools and churches.

No barrier stood between Dr. Nichols and the Christian Karens. They understood each other and loved each other. They early learned how to co-operate. What mission leader ever had more magnificent support than he as their beautiful buildings arose in rapid succession? He often told his missionary friends of the strong Karen pastors and laymen who could be counted on to do valiant service in their various positions. Attending the annual association meetings on various occasions I have been permitted to see the fine fellowship which existed between the missionary and his associates. Few single lives in any land have served so many to such an extent by personal presence and direct ministry as that of Dr. Nichols.

He was a staunch supporter of Judson College, acting as Chairman of its Board of Trustees for a number of years and often doing special committee work. He often laid aside pressing station work to answer the College call and we counted much on his sympathy and support.

Wallace St. John.

Sir San Crombie Po

No more fitting bestowal of New Year's Honours has been made than that of knighthood on the "good Doctor" San C. Po, C.B.E., of Bassein. It is a source of gratification to the Karen Community and also to the Christians of all races in Burma.

Sir San was born October 4, 1870, at Koze, near Bassein, of Christian parents. After going to the then Sgaw Karen High School in Bassein, he went to America where he took his medical degree. It was at this time that he added the name Crombie in remembrance of the help which he received from the family with whom he made his home when studying in that country. On his return to Burma, he joined the Government Medical service and served as Civil Surgeon both at Bassein and Myaungmya. Later he resigned and took up private practice in which he has been eminently successful among all sections of people in Bassein.

He has always been active in public service. In Bassein he has been Municipal Commissioner for a number of years. In the earlier Legislative Council he was the representative of the Karen people. On the Whyte Committee he served in helping to establish the reforms for the present Burma Government, and then became an elected member of the first Council under the new government. In many ways he has rendered helpful service to the people and the Government. He received the C.B.E. several years ago and now the Knighthood.

In addition to his beneficent work as a member of the community he has always shown a keen interest in the work of his church and acknowledged that from the inspiration gained here, his other services have had their spring. His council has always been wise and helpful. For his own people he has for a number

of years been recognized as their champion and most prominent representative and the president of the Karen National Association. Always full of good works and social graces he is a fitting recipient of the high honour that has been bestowed upon him. We trust that he may live long to enjoy it. THE NEWS and the members of the Baptist Mission in Burma offer their congratulations and hearty best wishes.



Christmas in Rangoon

Rangoon celebrated even more than usual this year. There seems to be three reasons. First, we had the pleasure of having Dr. and Mrs. Robbins, and Dr. and Mrs. Padel-ford with us. Second, through Mrs. Chaney's thoughtful suggestion and thorough and delightful planning, a Christmas dinner and party was held for as many missionaries as could come and could be accommodated in the Guest House dining room, thirty-two all told. Mrs. Chaney saw to it not only that a delicious and plenteous eight-course dinner was served, but that from the beginning when Santa welcomed each one until we parted after dinner, stunts, and toasts, "a good time was had by all." Last but not least, the Gift of God Pageant was held on the evening of December 26, and it seemed a most fitting and welcome treat after the strenuous week which everyone had spent preparing for and attending celebrations galore. As you have read in the Gazette and other papers the pageant was a great success from every point of view. Much credit and many thanks are due to Mrs. D. C. Baldwin who wrote and directed the pageant.

And now that Christmas is over, we wish you all a Happy New Year.

Esther Josif.

The Secretaries' Visit

We have been greatly privileged to have Dr. and Mrs. Robbins and Miss Campbell with us nearly three months, and Dr. and Mrs. Padelford with us two months. It has been our privilege to know Mrs. Robbins for a long time. I have often wondered at her memory of the names of people and places, especially in a foreign language. It is one indication of her interest in people and Missions. We were all glad to make Mrs. Padelford's acquaintance and we shall treasure the memory of her friendly personality and sincere interest in our work. Many of us have had the privilege of meeting Miss Campbell in the Rooms in New York. We are doubly glad to have her visit our Mission and see us in action in our environment. We believe that because of this trip, she will be able to render even better service than in the past.

Now our secretaries are gone. The Educational Conference is over. I am under the impression that everyone feels that this trip of the secretaries has not been a joy ride, but a strenuous task well done. It has been well that so many stations have been visited and schools studied. With the material put into their hands before arrival, with the local Conferences, and with the final larger Conference, Dr. Robbins and Dr. Padelford have been able to get at the heart of things. Dr. Padelford has, in a remarkable way, considering the time he was in Burma, been able to get a comprehensive grasp of our tasks. His advice is that of a sincere friend of missions and also from a long, rich experience as an educator studying educational problems in general, as well as in detail. No one present at the educational conference failed to sense Dr. Padelford's sincere love and devotion to our mutual task or his ability as a wise and able counsellor.

Dr. Robbins we know of old, for his brotherly spirit and his devotion to our common task. This is his fourth visit to Burma, in addition to the fact that he has through the years, been in continuous close contact with the interests of the mission through correspondence. I am sure that we have again been made conscious that Dr. Robbins is one of those great hearts and great minds that never ceases to grow. Our secretary is not growing in the way of becoming more official—more set to a preconceived policy—more dictatorial—all of which are temptations for any man in the position he holds. Rather, he is more sensitive to the least expression of opinion of each, or the opinion of the least of us, to give it due consideration. He met, with deep sympathy and rare tact, various situations arising in connection with groups of our indigenous brethren as well as with us.

The Padelford-Robbins report goes a long way to further vindicate the foresight and counsel of our own mission committees. Those studying and interested in single projects without the opportunity to study the work of the mission as a whole, have been unable to foresee or appreciate the necessity of retrenchment, or if they saw the necessity of retrenchment, they have not seen how it could be done, especially when it concerned their own particular part of the field. Dr. Robbins has been a confirmed optimist and has been prone to err on that side. But on this trip he has been dinning into our ears the fact that for the next year we must expect another large reduction in appropriations. In October the contributions at home were 26% behind what they were a year ago at this time. I think that we as a mission have come to realize that this next year we shall have to make some readjustments that are nothing less than tragic. This of all times is no

time for discouragement; we need to take our courage in both hands, show that our faith is equal to the time of testing, and live more than ever in the consciousness that this is God's work and we are not alone responsible for it. He is able to open up new avenues of service and bring new blessing, even if some of the past avenues of service have to be closed.

As your secretary, I have been having to prepare possible ways to meet the large reductions which Dr. Robbins says are inevitable for next year. It is going to hit most of us and this time will cut deeply into our evangelistic funds. It is likely to cut deepest into the larger appropriations of frontier missions, a part of our work which up to the present the Reference Committee has been most unwilling to reduce. Under present conditions it seems to me that it behoves all to be prepared to receive large reductions in their appropriations for next year. It may be that conditions will now require some vertical cuts instead of horizontal cuts entirely.

It has been most fortunate that we have had the visit of Dr. Padelford and Dr. Robbins this year, especially following upon the heels of the Laymen's Commission Report, some parts of which are exceedingly unfortunate. I have read the full report and most of it is well worth reading. The excerpts will not seem quite so unfair. Just as soon as you can, beg, borrow or buy a copy of the full report and read it. After we read it, we will be better qualified to judge of it as a whole, and then while some parts of it need the severest criticism and opposition, nevertheless we shall recognize that we have much to learn from it. We are out here under the Great Commission and not under the Laymen's Commission!

The coming Conference in Maymyo will be an exceedingly important one, and every missionary who can pos-

sibly get there, ought to plan to be there. It may be that if we receive a heavy cut in appropriations as well as a reduction in salary, still the Reference Committee will see fit to suggest that each meet his or her own travel expense, at least in most cases. So plan for that possibility also. Let us make the coming Conference a subject of daily prayer and come, to help make it the most spiritual, the most courageous, the most far-seeing, the most constructive Conference on record in our mission. That can only be done under the preparation and guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have helps enough in the way of studies, and I do not mean to discount them—Policy Committee Reports, Laymen's Commission Report, the Education Conference and the Report of Drs. Padelford and Robbins, etc. What is needed now is preparation through deeper daily companionship and prayer with the Master that our coming Conference will be sufficient unto the day and needs which we are facing with prayer and courage.

Printed copies of the Padelford-Robbins Report together with the recommendations of the Education Conference Findings Committee are being prepared and will soon be mailed to you.

C. E. Chaney,
Field Secretary.

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Aboard S.S. "Ethiopia",
En route for Madras,

December 31, 1932.

To our Burma Fellow-Missionaries and friends:

After the crowded days of study and fellowship with you in Burma with visits to all our Mission stations from Tavoy to Mandalay, we are enjoying these three days of rest and relaxation aboard the ship. While our schedule in Burma did seem a bit strenuous, I am con-

vinced that considering the time limitation and the amount of work to be covered, the itinerary arranged by Dr. Chaney and the committee could hardly have been improved upon, and the Educational conference brought it to a happy and climactic conclusion. Dr. and Mrs. Padelford, Miss Campbell, and Mrs. Robbins join me in thanking you all for the kindness and gracious hospitality which you all extended to us.

I am writing especially to urge each of you to secure and read for yourselves the Report of the Appraisal Commission of the Laymen's Foreign Mission Inquiry. I am afraid that some of you will have reacted so violently to the newspaper releases of certain portions of the Report, that you will not feel inclined to purchase the volume itself. While, with you, I feel that there is much in the Report with which I cannot agree, I do believe that it is a very worthwhile volume. I have already read it through once and am now reading it through the second time. Dr. Padelford has read the whole volume through twice and some of it three times. It has so commended itself to the American public that it is being used as the Book of the Month of the Religious Book Club for November. Our own Board has released to the constituency at home a statement concerning the Report; two paragraphs of that statement are quoted below:

"The Boards feel that the report does our missionaries less than justice. While, of course, they differ in ability, we believe them to be men and women of genuine devotion, sound training and beyond the average capacity. Their service calls for a high degree of self-sacrifice and many of them are bearing burdens far beyond their strength on account of our inability to send reinforcements. We hold them in the highest degree of esteem and affection."

"We recognize that the report represents the convictions of thoughtful Christian leaders including members of our own constituency, after two years of careful study. While not all the conclusion and proposals found in it are acceptable to our Boards or are likely to prove acceptable to our constituency, the report nevertheless constitutes an important appraisal of foreign missions and many of its critical and constructive suggestions may be found genuinely helpful."

I do hope that every one of you will buy this report and, as Dr. Padelford suggested to the Educational Conference the other day, read it through not once, but twice, that we may realize the full import of this volume and its effect upon this tremendous task to which we as missionaries have given our lives.

J. C. Robbins.



Maubin

I have just returned from a three-weeks' tour, during which time I received no mail and have just spent a full afternoon and evening opening and enjoying Christmas letters and greetings from friends far and near. A Happy New Year to *all* to whom I failed to send greetings.

December is not a good time to find the people in the villages, as an abundant harvest has been in full swing and the farmers are in the fields day and night. However, we have had a good tour and a large attendance at the two conferences held.

Christmas was spent at Wa-thein-Ka, where 450 were reported present at the concert on Saturday night, after a day of sports. Sunday was Conference Day with a smaller attendance of Christians.

Our engine went like a top all the *long* way we have travelled, but two of our helpers had to be left behind in Dadaye, in the hospital, both down with a very severe attack of malaria.

January will be spent in the northern part of our field. Hope we shall find the Fletchers here when we return.

M. B. Pound.

Bassein—Karen

With all my heart I'm wishing all of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Inspired by the example of the Moulmein missionaries I've decided to greet you all through the News and send the money for cards and postage to the orphanage.

On December 4, our women who meet every Sunday for prayer for missions joined in the W. W. G. Vesper Service. One of the women gave a very fine talk. Our World S. S. program, because of the Communion Service, was postponed to December 11, when the church and S. S. combined. There was music by different departments, recitations and a fine talk on W. H. Main's "*Our Bible*" by Thra Po Mya. The juniors gave the Bible salute. The pastor based his talk on one of the Sunday School lessons.

With two groups, one non-Sgaws and the other Sgaws, I am taking up "Rivers of Living Water" by Ruth Paxson, a birthday gift from Misses Ranney and Phinney. Everyone finds it interesting and helpful. I believe a general reading of this book would result in a higher plane of spiritual living and bring the revival nearer.

The Bassein Girl Guides had a sale of work at which about Rupees 250 were realized.

The school had a Christmas Tree on December 22, after which the pupils went home for two weeks. During the program the Christmas Offering was brought forward by four pupils who stood as prayer was offered for Christ's blessing on it, and it was then placed near the tree as our gift to Christ. Christmas was spent with a former teacher in the jungle where there was a Christmas Tree, Saturday night and a special S. S. program Sunday noon. Carols were sung at mid-night.

All hearts are saddened at the

passing on of Dr. Nichols but the influence of his life will remain, a fragrant memory. Thra San Ba led high school chapel the day the telegram came and took half his time to eulogize Dr. Nichols. After reading Psalm 27 and Ps. 116:15, he spoke of him as one of the saints, and said a man must lead a good and beautiful life to have his life precious in the sight of the Lord; that Dr. Nichols was truly a man of God. He spoke of his character and of his missionary service. Strength was his most marked characteristic; strength of will, strength of courage. Therefore he could go through difficulties and could build up the work. He had built himself into this community of twenty or thirty thousand. Most of the things we have to-day, the finest things, are due to him. Therefore we are thankful to him. The work began more than one hundred years ago. After one of Dr. Nichols' favourite hymns, Faith of Our Fathers, had been sung, he added that Dr. Nichols had gone but had left us something—his spirit, his example, and all should thank God for his life, for his work. He then asked the pupils to sing, Since Jesus Came into My Heart, a favourite of Jennie R. Nichols.

It seems to me especially fitting that Dr. Nichols should be called home at this season of the year when, if he were here, he would be out with the pastors, band and choir on evangelistic trips. What joy must be his as he talks with Christ about this work and beholds not the present only but the future also.

May we be as faithful in carrying on the work still left in our hands!

Clara B. Tingley.



January Salary Rates

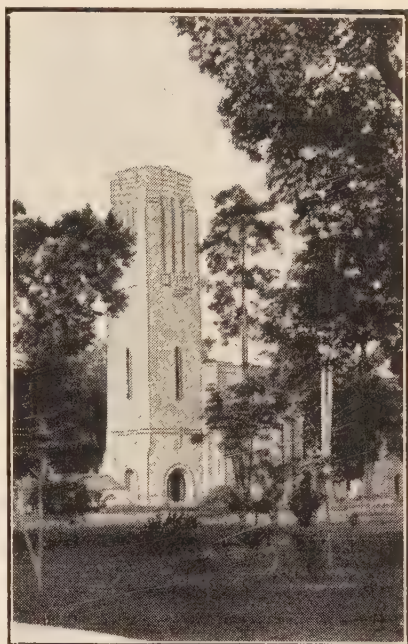
General Board	327
Woman's Board	360

Judson College Chapel

New Year Report, 1933

The Chapel is now approaching completion. The vaulted ceiling is finished and realizes the expectations which the architect's attractive picture aroused. The acoustic treatment has been given to the walls so that rapping on the walls over the embedded disks produces a hollow sound. The stairs and staircases are now getting their finishing touches. The floors in the vestibule and audience room are being laid and should be completed by the middle of January. The leaded amber glass is being placed in the windows. A system of hidden lighting is being installed in the audience room. Experiments are being made with sample pews so that the most suitable seating for the students may be provided. Careful attention is being given to secure the most helpful conditions for worship.

The College Treasurer reports Chapel receipts to date as amounting to Rs. 2,23,971-3-4. There has been paid to Mr. Emin, the contractor, the sum of Rs. 1,90,000, to Mr. Bray, the architect, Rs. 15,000. The overhead expenses for printing, postage, stationery, etc., have amounted to Rs. 6,524-2-3. There is now a balance in hand of Rs. 12,447-1-1. Mr. Emin's original tender was for Rs. 2,37,970. Various savings have been effected and the item of electricity was taken out of the list so that his figure was reduced to Rs. 2,14,636-2-0. The lighting arranged for will cost Rs. 5,950. There will be a remainder due to the architect of Rs. 5,944. The amounts payable then will be 1) to the contractor, Rs. 24,636-2; 2) for architect and electricity Rs. 11,894—a total of Rs. 36,530-2-0 for the completion of the building. Since we have in hand Rs. 12,447-1-1, the amount we need to complete the building is Rs.



24,083-0-11. Counting Rs. 3,000 to be needed for pews and Rs. 600 to be required for pulpit furniture and furniture for the pastor's study, the entire amount needed up to this point is Rs. 27,683.

This comparatively small amount must be provided for in some way in the near future to make it possible to utilize the building at a reasonably early date. In these reduction days when all are suffering losses and many need to be aided by their more fortunate friends, giving is done more thoughtfully, but I hope not less cheerfully. Still many can aid almost as generously as before, for they have not suffered serious reduction of income and expenses of living may be considerably reduced. May we not now make a special final effort to complete these building and furniture requirements?

Wallace St. John.



"True politeness is perfect ease and freedom. It simply consists in treating others just as you love to be treated yourself."
—Lord Chesterfield.

Toungoo—Burman

First of all we are back or else all the kind greetings we have received are a pleasant dream. We have already begun to experience the problems of the field. Much work seems difficult to accomplish with our people coming to us with their problems and sometimes consuming a lot of time. Some just come to talk and to tell us that they are glad that we are back. We have been surprised to have so many of the old boys of the school, and old girls as well, come to see us and to welcome us back. It is pleasant to be thus remembered.

We feel that we have been most fortunate in having Miss Mosier in charge of the school for two years and the progress that has been made shows how hard she has worked. Not alone in the school has her work been done, but out in the jungle villages and schools where her influence has gone in a helpful way. Then when she had to leave, we were glad that Mr. Parish could give so much time to the school and work of the field. He turned the work over to us in fine condition.

Baptisms have been going on on the field while we have been away and there seems to have been developed a larger spirit of self direction on the part of the church in town and in jungle. The Christmas season gave us plenty to do. The little church at Pyu had a very creditable program on Saturday night and we drove down with some of our people to attend this. Saya Mg. Hkaing has got hold of the people in a remarkable manner. Buddhists and Hindus came to the program and included government officials and others in municipal life. Over a hundred people were present and were served with refreshments at the close. We drove home after the program and back again on Sunday for the baptism of one of the young

converts, a girl of about eleven years. From there we went to Yeshan-gale where we have a wide-awake teacher in charge of a school which she has built up to an attendance of about sixty or possibly more. She gave a Christmas program which showed unusual ability on her part in planning and executing. The final number on the program was a series of tableaux connected with the story of Christmas. She had drawn a large picture of a horse on a large sheet of cardboard. This she nailed to a saw horse and the girl who took the place of Mary in the tableaux was seated on the saw horse in a manner that looked as though she were on the horse itself. She had arranged the reading and the songs to fit in with the story so as to make it interesting and full of variety. The night scene was indicated by placing large sheets of blue paper around the gas lanterns. The glory of the angels was indicated by using large sheets of golden coloured paper. Over 300 people listened to the program and the impression we received was very vivid that she is getting a real hold on the villagers. The one really well-to-do man who was most bitter in his opposition to the school at the first, was in attendance and his grand-children are now attending the school. Three converts have been baptized from this village. We drove home after the evening's entertainment, reaching home about mid-night.

We attended the conference with the Burmese brethren and the Educational Conference in Rangoon and as this letter goes off are planning a watch night service for our Christians of all races in Toungoo. So we are getting back into the harness and enjoying it. We pray for you and hope you do the same for us. We feel deeply that we need it.

Lewis B. Rogers.

Insein

By some strange Providence, this year has been one of the saddest we have known at the Karen Seminary. For the third time death has invaded the ranks of the senior class and taken one of the keenest students. This young man, Saw Shwe Han, seemed to be in ill-health ever since his coming to us from Tavoy four years ago. We could not seem to ward off his more or less constant attacks of beri-beri. But this year when he seemed to be better, a sharp attack came on and he went home only to die after a few days. However the general health of the school has been better than usual this year except for these unusual cases. We greatly deplore their loss.

The Teachers' Lane at the back of the Seminary compound is undergoing a transformation. Of the four little old wooden houses, only one remains and that is perched up on the only bit of the original "hog-back hill" that still remains. The students have been earning money as well as getting a lesson in practical faith by removing the mountain. One teacher's house—that for Thra Po Ngai—has already been completed from the materials of the "Amherstia Place" which we removed from the old College compound. Another is now in course of erection on a filled-in site. A new broad road is being laid out and it will be flanked by large roomy well-ventilated houses on both sides. This is indeed a decided improvement over the old conditions.

It was a great privilege to have Dr. and Mrs. Robbins and Miss Campbell as members of a Gospel Team which spent the week-end of 4th December, at the non-Christian village of Wanetkon on the Pegu Road. In the company there were representatives from Judson, the Seminaries and both women's Bible schools. The group not only preached and gave their testimonies, but

arranged to provide sanitation from the Rockefeller Health Unit, repaired a broken-down bridge between sections of the village, and cleaned up the village area. The visitors were adopted as full members of the team and they took part in all our activities and professed (and that seemingly truly) to enjoy it. A number of decisions were taken and of these two have already been baptised. Altogether it was a very enjoyable and profitable campaign.

It goes without saying that the visit on the following Monday to the Seminaries by Drs. Robbins and Padelford was most worth-while. We felt that they had a clear understanding of our problems and of our endeavours to make this work the best possible.

There is not time to tell of the Christmas treats and pageant at the school, and the scattering of the students over the Christmas season taking good cheer to many villages. We rejoice over every opportunity that comes to our young people to make known the joy of the New Life in Christ. H. I. Marshall.

◆ ◆ ◆ Thonze

This has been a fine year for us. It has been a year of trying to help folks grow. Last year we baptized about two hundred in the entire Association, but this year excluding the Prome Station, we have baptized a few less than half that number. We have worked just as hard as last year, but we have laid the emphasis on teaching those we had won "all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Of course we have been only partly successful. That is a task that is never completed.

To-day, the last day of the year, we had the roll-call or annual meeting and heard the reports.

We have collected more money and spent more—more locally and more for missions.

The Sunday School has grown in numbers and in gifts and in efficiency. We want to see a strong Sunday School in every church this year.

The Christian Endeavour Society has taken on new life because they have planned some outside work and have tried to do it. Now they are holding services in outside villages every Sunday afternoon. They are planning a Daily Vacation Bible School or two. That makes everybody connected with it grow. We are trying to get a Christian Endeavour started and actively working in every church this year.

We must not forget to say that the schools at Okkan and Thonze have grown about 20 per cent. The finances have not, but we hope to close the year out of debt.

On the material side, we have a new house, the cook is about to have one and the Bible women one, too. Money is being collected for a pastor's house at Letpadan and for a bell tower at Tu Ywa.

J. T. Latta.



Maymyo

Christmas Service was held at Government High School, and attended by six hundred people representing nine races. The Burma Rifle's" band and four choirs greatly enriched the splendid service which commemorated the birth of our Saviour and Lord. An offering of Rupees 78-9 was received for the "All Burma" Orphanage at Moulmein. Brief addresses were delivered in the Burmese, Hindustani, English and Karen languages.

Indian Work:—Eight men, cartmen who work for the Municipality, have been received for baptism and expect to confess their Lord and Saviour in that ordinance of Sunday, January 1. They have had their distinctive "Hindu-tufts" cut off as an indication that they have formally and decisively renounced

Hinduism. Please pray for them and for the other four candidates for baptism and church membership who have been advised to wait for another month of instruction.

Bible-women:—Rhoda, a Telugu Bible-woman, has a Sunday school class of nearly twenty pupils. Daw Shwe Bwin, a Shan Bible-woman at Lashio, has a Sunday school of similar size. In addition both women are doing faithful work in house-to-house visitation, with evidences of fruitfulness.

Visitors:—Rev and Mrs. Casto, of the China Inland Mission, and Rev. and Mrs. Roger Cummings, missionaries designate to Sagaing, are spending some weeks at this station. We are glad of their fellowship and of the help which they have so whole-heartedly and efficiently rendered at our Sunday and mid-week services.

Watch-night service will be held as usual and we anticipate a goodly number and a profitable and impressive gathering.

Thanks:—My wife and I thank our fellow missionaries for their cards of remembrance and good wishes, at this festive season.

Ernest Grigg.



Bhamo — Kachin

In my November letter I made mention of a resolution which was passed by the Bible Study Class in October regarding collections for the work. I am happy to report that the Kachins did not leave it with passing of the resolution only but also backed it with real action. Formerly contributions were sent in from about ten to fifteen churches and individuals during the month; since then they have run up to as high as forty-nine in one month. This is a wonderful improvement.

In one of the out-stations opened by a pupil from the Bible School, Sara M. Robbin administered the

ordinance of baptism for the first time since his ordination. At this same place they are speaking of building a chapel. Each month they send in their small collection.

The visitation of jungle churches has been heavily on the minds of many of us. We are trying to solve it as best we can in the following way just now: The eight pupils from the Bible School are placed in charge of a village each, Sara M. Robbin and his wife are taken in the car on Sunday morning and stop at a village, observe the Lord's supper with the village and hold meetings with the women while the missionary goes on to some other village farther on serving another small group. Thus on many Sundays the Bible School is serving ten villages a Sunday.

Just before Christmas, Sara M. Robbin started out with five boys from the Bible School for a month's visitation among the churches in a given area spending a day or two with each group. Like the apostles of old, each man is carrying his blanket and will live on what the people serve them. Before leaving they made out a program of addresses and a list of the villages which they will visit. They will visit in three groups of two each, bring the same message without controversy and backing the message with personal experiences of what the Lord has done for them; every so often they will meet and compare notes. We expect much for the boys as well as for the churches from this visit.

One of the leaders is collecting sand, gravel and cement with a view to sinking a well, so as to have pure drinking water all the year round. Brother Dudrow from Myitkyina has kindly lent us the forms. We hope in time to have others follow. Such wells will soon put a stop to many of the bowel troubles in the villages during the rains.

I left on the morning of the 23rd December, to accept an urgent invitation from a village thirty-two miles from Bhamo to attend the dedication of their new chapel. The first twelve miles were easily made by motor car, but the remaining twenty had to be made on the back of a pony. It was almost sundown when I arrived at the village. But what a welcome! Guns were fired, gongs and drums were beaten and like a conquering hero I was escorted to the village. But I was not the only invited guest. A number of the nearby churches had been invited and 513 of these members accepted the invitation and were entertained most cordially for two days by these liberal Kachin brethren.

From the report I learned that this was the third chapel that these people had erected. The first one was a simple bamboo structure, the second one was partly of wood and bamboo. The new one was built of wood with a corrugated iron roof. The carpenter had spent a short time in the Bhamo carpenter school during Mr. H. W. Smith's time. With the help of the villagers he felled trees, cut the boards into proper sizes planed them and erected the building, so that the whole two-storyed house was built by the Kachins and all the material except the iron and glass for the windows was of local production. The lower floor might be the envy of many rich churches in America, for it is enclosed with nice red mahogany wood. Best of all is the fact that not one cent of American money has gone into this beautiful building.

Geis J. Geis.



"We lose vigour through thinking continually the same set of thoughts. New thought is new life."

—Prentice Mulford.

To have the humility of Jesus Christ we must live in communion with Him.

Meiktila — Burman

I have been asked quite often if I do not see many changes in Burma in ten years. In some ways Burma still seems the same but the thing that has impressed me the most is what our boys are doing. By our boys I mean those who were in school here when we were a high school. Some of those boys have inherited their fathers' shops and it delights one to go there and see the cleanliness and system that has been inaugurated. In the old days we wandered through a maze of dust where now we find things shelved and dusted, and a place for everything.

Then so many of the boys have responsible positions and it is nice to have them coming back to the school for tennis, sending us messages, and all who possibly can, sending their children to the old school.

We have been having busy times here. First we had Dr. and Mrs. Padelford, then came Dr. Robbins, Mrs. Robbins and Miss Campbell. With them were Mr. Hinton and Ernest, Brayton Case, Mr. and Mrs. Cummings.

Christmas was a happy one with us. We had a Christmas tree and a concert topped off by a good curry feed with Saya Lu's crowd at Thazi. Here we had an entertainment and afterwards a tea. Noel got the saddle for his pony so he felt the day was a good one too.

Now we are all working for the Aung-bin-le association which looks as if it is going to be a well-run affair. We are fortunate in having some good managers and they plan to make it a success.

I hope to see some of the folks at Maymyo and say "howdy" once more.

I wanted to tell you also about the refrigerator I brought out and how wonderful it is. It is Montgo-

mery Ward's Trukold and makes the ice by means of kerosene oil. It burns one quart of oil a day which is all the expense. It is surely great to have ice cubes, cold ice water and ice cream and also to have milk, vegetables, fruit, etc., kept sweet. I wonder now how we ever got along without it. I had an electric one at home in an apartment we rented and this kerosene oil one is even better. It has another advantage in that it does not get out of order.

Della Dudley.

**A Line about Assam**

Dear News,

The missionaries in Assam write you very little. They write many letters to me, so I know them to be all right. My Mundaris Christians, also, on both Darrang and North Lakhimpur fields, write letters to me and that is fine.

In my deputation work I made some statements regarding Assam; on this order: "Assam is not a country; it is a 'Province in India.' It is the size of Iowa. When my wife and I first went there, we found 3,000 Baptists; now there are 60,000. "For the number of missionaries at work, and the amount of mission money spent, Assam has yielded greater returns than any mission field."

Of course I should like to be in Assam, this minute; but deputation work, is not so bad. Recently a man asked me what I expect to do when deputation work is all done. I said to him, "It will never be all done." The fact is it is becoming more interesting all the time with an increasing demand for it.

John Firth.



Pride is of the flesh and humility is of the Spirit. These two wage a continual warfare within us.

Christmas Reports Requested

The following is an appeal recently received by the Field Secretary from Dr. Lipphard, the editor of "Missions."

"The December issue of Missions will again contain as its annual Christmas feature a review of Christmas celebrations on our mission fields at home and abroad.

"In going over the letters from the fields for compiling this material I have been impressed with the paucity of Christmas reports. So I am writing this letter to request all Mission Secretaries that if any unusual or striking Christmas celebrations are observed on any of our fields next month, a brief report be prepared and sent to me as soon as practicable thereafter while the vividness of the impression still remains. One or two good photographs accompanying each report would also be of value.

"I will then keep such reports on file for use in compiling a similar feature in the December 1933 issue. I need not assure you that your co-operation in this will be heartily appreciated."

Sincerely yours,
Wm. B. Lipphard.



Thanks:—and Then—

While working on the Introduction to the final paper on the earthworms of Burma, a list was made of those in the mission who have assisted by collection of specimens in their own particular districts, for inclusion in the paper. To my surprise the list totalled more than fifteen names. Never before have such large collections of earthworms from any particular area been made or studied. The results of the work are significant and necessitate the revision of several important scientific theories. Without the assistance of those who have collected, the work could not have been advanced to anywhere near the position that has been attained.

Your contributions to this work have been or will be acknowledged in the various publications. A copy of the latest paper will be left at the Guest House so that any of you who may be interested can see something of what you or others have helped to accomplish. In addition to those who have contributed by actual collections there are others who have assisted more indirectly and to all of these as well as to the others the heartiest thanks of the writer are gratefully extended.

But, another Request

Now just to show you that there are other things in which we are interested:—We are in need of snail, slug or gastropod "shells," of freshwater and land varieties. These shells are needed from as many localities as possible. Can you have your students, friends, workers or others pick up whatever shells may be available and forward them to me? If the animals in the shells are alive they may be killed by dropping them into boiling water and then burying them in sand until rotting has been completed. Or if you will get the shells to me I will tend to these details. Will as many of you as possible, please regard this as a personal request and see what can be done in the way of getting the shells to me? The shells should be received in Rangoon before the first of March. Marine shells are not needed, *i.e.*, shells from the sea or seashore.

G. E. Gates.



Tourists!

Those who have occasion to tour through Toungoo, may be glad to know that there is a bungalow available for over-night use or for a day or two, if you desire to use it. The Bwe Karen Mission house, near the bazaar is vacant. It has four sleeping rooms, two of them screened, good beds and mattresses, also a screened living room. There is a mahli to draw water.

The furniture in the house belongs to the Lewises, with a few exceptions and if it is treated as you would have your own treated, there will be no complaints, as it is better for occasional use. All articles locked up are not available for use. There are no dishes or decshies for cooking or eating. Arrangements for meals can be made with the resident missionaries if you so desire.



Graduations

The Karen Women's Bible School will have its Annual Commencement exercises, Monday, January 30, at 6-30 p.m., at Brayton Memorial Hall. Please remember the time, and be assured that you will all be very welcome. There are twenty-nine young women in the class and we rejoice in their earnest desire to help make Christ known to wherever He calls. Loilem has already extended a call to one of our High School and Normal trained girls. She has taken a two years' special course with us. Some others are being called to return to their own districts.

Please pray that each one may be a **real power** for the Kingdom of God. There are five who have taken our two-year special course, four who have been here for one-year intensive work and twenty who have taken the full three-year course. Violetta R. Peterson.

The Burma Seminary will close January 31. Graduation exercises at 2:30 p.m. Tea will be served to friends of the Seminary at 4 p.m. A welcome extended to every one that cares to, and can arrange to, come.

J. Richardson.

The eighty-eighth anniversary of the Karen Seminary will be held on the 1st of February, 1933, at 2:30 p.m. The meetings of the Alumni will

begin the evening of the 31st January, at 6:30 p.m.

All our friends are invited to be present at the exercises in the chapel and to the tea which will be served afterward on the lawn.

H. I. Marshall.



Conference Lodging

Will all missionaries who plan to go to the Conference at Maymyo be so kind as to correspond with Miss Parrott on the matter of rooms as soon as convenient? Those who have rooms engaged for the Hot Season at the Rest House need not write, but all those who expect lodging other than at the Rest house should write even though they are planning to be at the Assembly. In fact, it would be well to mention the fact if you are to be at the Assembly and then stay over for the Conference and have not arranged with Mrs. McGuire to stay at the Rest House. Kindly treat this as important.

The Assembly will probably close on the evening of the 2nd of April and Conference does not begin until the evening of the 4th. If you *do not* plan to attend the Assembly and *do* intend to attend the Conference, please do not plan to arrive in Maymyo until the 4th. Some rearrangement of the rooms will be necessary after the Assembly is closed and before the Conference begins; and it is requested that those who come only for the Conference be so kind as to plan to arrive not earlier than the 4th. Kindly treat this as very important, also.

H. E. Hinton,

Chairman.



Arrivals

On December 6, by *S.S. Pegu*, Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Gibbens, and Rev. and Mrs. L. B. Rogers.



Death

Rev. C. A. Nichols, D.D., at his home in Connecticut, on Sunday, December 18.

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